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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,963	01/31/2005	Norbert Kuliha	026032-4847	6912

26371 7590 07/26/2006

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EXAMINER

WHITE, RODNEY BARNETT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/522,963	KULIHA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Rodney B. White	3636	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Applicant uses the words "invention" and means" several times in the Abstract, which is improper language for the Abstract. Correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claims 1-18, the phrases "in such a manner", "in particular", "conventional", and "if appropriate" render the claims indefinite because it is unclear

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whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). These phrases are no different than “for example” or such as”.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In Claims 13 and 14, “the retaining limbs” (3 instances) lack antecedent basis. Both Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 6, which depends from Claim 2. However, the “retaining limbs” are not defined or claimed until Claim 7.

The aforementioned problems render the claims vague and indefinite. Clarification and/or correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hess (U.S. Patent No. 3,897,101).

Hess teaches the structure as claimed (See Figure 1 and the specification).

Claims 1-6 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koucky et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,248,480).

Koucky et al teaches the structure as claimed (See Figure 1 and the specification).

Claims 1-6, 11-12, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tokugawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,676,555).

Tokugawa teaches the structure as claimed including a shear pin 41 (See Figures 1-8 and the specification).

Claims 1-6, 11-12, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tokugawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,729,602).

Tokugawa teaches the structure as claimed including a shear pin 39 (See Figures 1-3 and the specification).

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noshino (U.S. Patent No. 4,804, 229).

Noshino teaches the structure as claimed. (See Figures 3-7 and the specification).

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,106,144).

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Hayakawa et al teaches the structure as claimed. (See Figures 3-6 and the specification).

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowers (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,752 B1).

Bowers teaches the structure as claimed. (See Figures 1 and 7 and the specification).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ernst, Iwami, Periou, Doty, Wisner et al, Kirchhoff et al, Deptolla, Andersson et al, Borbe et al, and Akaike et al teach concepts and structures similar to the present invention.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney B. White whose telephone number is (571) 272-6863. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rodney B. White,  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3636  
July 23, 2006



RODNEY B. WHITE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER